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COUNTRY USSR (Baltic)

REPORT

SUBJECT Observations of Soviet Ships in the
Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland

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reports of Soviet ships sighted in the Baltic Sea and the Gulf
of Finland50X1-HUM
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Att.No. Description

1. RIGA-class escort vessels, engaged in firing practice.
2. Formation of Soviet ships including one destroyer; two RIGA-class escort vessels; three KRONSTADT-class submarine chasers. speedboats.
3. Two SVERDLOV-class cruisers and six KOTLIN-class destroyers. Those observed on were engaged in firing practice.
4. Three RIGA-class escort vessels
5. Eight submarines and two cruisers in Leningrad; two ships and two sail training vessels in Daugavgriva.

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[redacted] a frigate of the RIGA Class, towing a very large target at a distance of about 600 meters, was at position 54°31'N, 14°50'E. The frigate was on about northeastern course making 5 to 8 knots. Individual salvos were fired at this target at intervals of 5 to 10 minutes by frigate [redacted] of the RIGA Class. At 1500, naval vessel [redacted] was at position 54°34'N, 14°43'E, made about 10 knots on parallel course toward the target, stopped short, ran on northern course for about 1 nautical mile, turned toward starboard on east-northeastern course and, after about 10 minutes, changed again to northeastern course. After or during the last change to position 54°36.5'N, 14°52'E, frigate [redacted] made smoke for a short time. The firing of salvos at intervals of 5 to 10 minutes was continued on northeastern course. The splashes reached the bridge of the frigate. It appeared that the salvos fell short and in some cases were widely spread toward the left.

[redacted] Comment. Practice firing north of the Oder-Bank. [redacted]

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[redacted] a group of 6 large and 5 small Soviet naval vessels was at position about 11 nautical miles off Loba. The ships were on about west-southwestern course but hardly made way. A distance of about 500 meters was between the large vessels, while the small units were only about 300 meters apart. The following vessels were identified:

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1 destroyer: 2 stacks, continuous deckline, 2 guns forward, 2 aft, apparently all of same caliber; each 1 mast forward of each stack; torpedo tubes between the stacks, forward stack widely spaced from the bridge; radar cupola projecting from the bridge, but not as round as that of the RIGA Class; bridge higher than stacks which are almost of equal height; at the forward mast, a trellis mast, an unusual radar screen and at half the height between bridge and the other mast, 2 or 3 flags or pennants were observed; one flag had a red color with a star in the white upper corner, and 1 or 2 stars in the large red field;

2 frigates of the RIGA Class [redacted]

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3 submarine chasers of the KRONSTADT Class [redacted]

5 speedboats [redacted]

free-standing torpedo tubes, no stack; one gun each forward and aft; short and thick mast aft of small bridge superstructure; boat's length, approximately 25 meters.

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The unit kept the following formation:

1 submarine chaser, 2 destroyers, 3 speedboats, a large destroyer, 2 speedboats and the third submarine chaser.

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[redacted] Comment. The group presumably practiced in this sea area. The description of the destroyer which cannot definitely be identified

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[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

is very close to an escort destroyer of the KOLA Class. Since, however, KOLAs have not been observed in the Baltic for some time, it is little likely that the destroyers are ships of this type. The two RIGAs are probably [REDACTED] stationed in Swinemuende, and the speedboats of the [REDACTED] are probably also from the Swinemuende area. [REDACTED] the three KRONSTADT submarine chasers are known; they have been observed, however, only in the Viborg area [REDACTED] once in Leningrad [REDACTED] is reported for the first time and presumably also belongs to the Viborg area. The fact that the unit is composed of ships stationed at Baltic Sea areas which are located wide apart is of interest.

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1. [redacted] one Soviet cruiser of the SVERDLOV Class and two destroyers of the KOTLIN Class including [redacted] were seen approximately at position 55°05'N/19°30'E. The destroyers steered different courses, gathering on southeastern course at 1300.
2. [redacted] one Soviet cruiser of the SVERDLOV Class and four destroyers of the KOTLIN Class including [redacted] were seen approximately at position 55°04'N/19°40'E, steering different courses. At about 1200, a two-piece target, about 100 meters long and towed by a tug, was observed at about the same position. One 2-round salvo was fired at this target. Impacts were seen about 30 meters before and/or behind the middle of the target.
3. The vessels were described as follows:

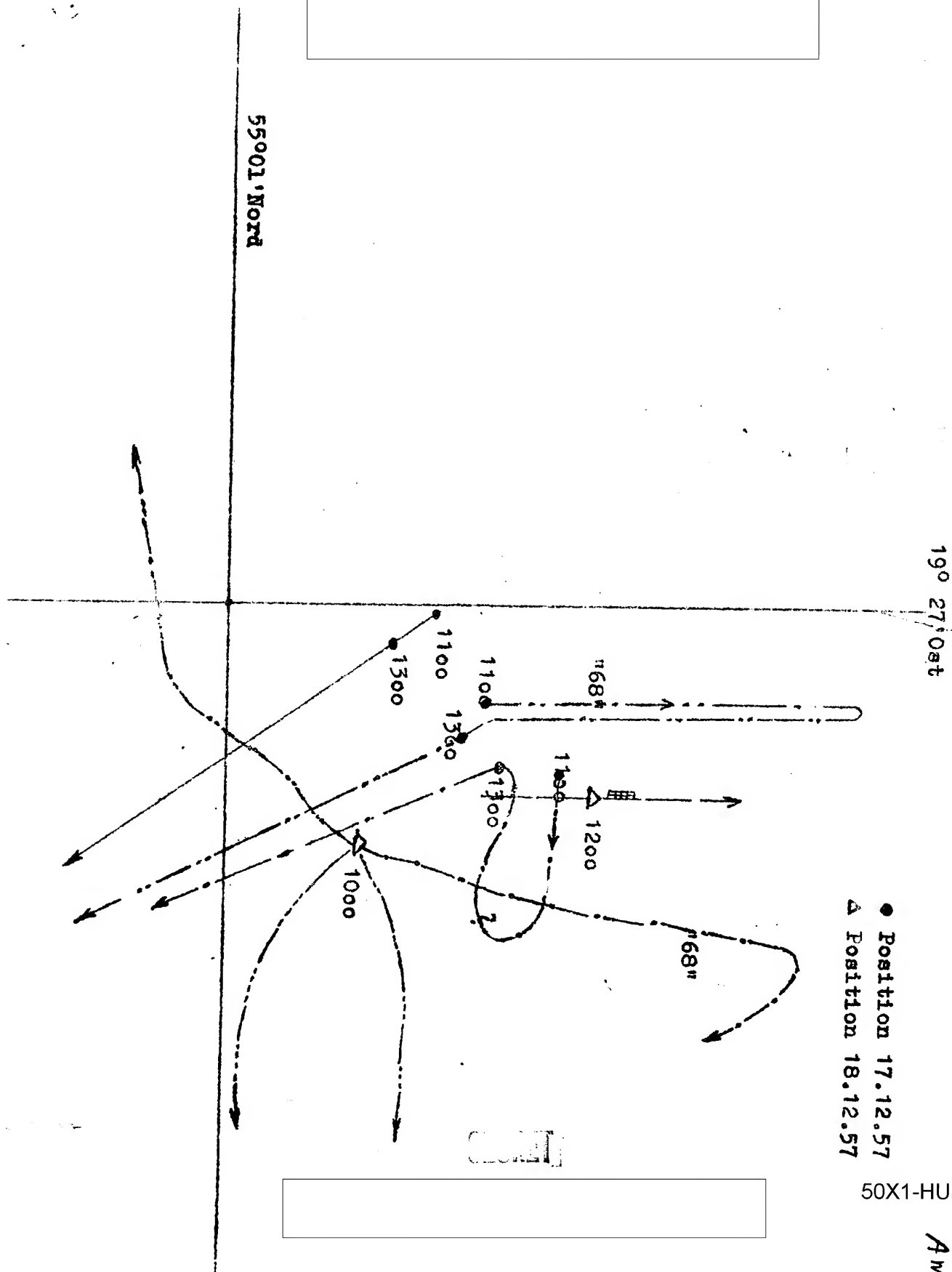
Cruiser : 2 stacks, in front of each a mast; fire-control position on bridge.

Destroyer : Continuous deckline; mushroom-shaped fire-control position on bridge; 2 short, racking stacks; fore mast immediately abaft bridge, aft mast forward of second stack.

[redacted] Comment. This practice firing took place about 15 nautical miles west of Bruesterort. The fact that, with only one salvo, the impacts were so close to the target, is worth noting and is indicative of good firing data and an efficient fire control. Destroyer [redacted] belongs to the SKORY Class and was photographed in Swinemuende [redacted]

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three Soviet frigates of the RIGA Class
were observed at position

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57°46'N/20°55'E on south-southwestern course, making about 10 knots.

the vessels slowed down and simultaneously went on an eastern course via south. After the alteration of course, the frigates were observed in staggered formation, 300 to 500 meters apart from each other. The RIGA type vessels are described as follows: 2 vessels with similar trellis mast and large radome; 1 vessel with unidentified number, tripod mast, and a different, rather rectangular radar installation above the bridge.

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Comment. The units were presumably en route to the Gulf of Riga and possibly made for Riga Harbor.

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1. Two large, modern submarines equipped with snorkels were observed in Leningrad on 11 November 1957. They had no visible armament. 50X1-HUM
2. Two cruisers of the SVERDLOV or CHAPAYEV type were seen in the Morskoy Canal on a southerly course [redacted] (in Leningrad).
3. [redacted] a patrol boat was passed in Riga [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] It was of at least 100 metric tons, and carried one gun forward and one aft. See the attached sketch.
4. Six medium-sized submarines were [redacted] made fast at the north Neva Beach (sic) between Maslyana Bend and the Lieutenant Schmidt Bridge in Leningrad. 50X1-HUM
5. [redacted] a vessel [redacted] was seen off of Riga which was similar to an mbb (sic). It was equipped with radio direction finding gear, and had one gun forward and three aft. The guns were covered. 50X1-HUM
6. Two sailing vessels (school ships) were observed in Dünamünde [redacted] 50X1-HUM

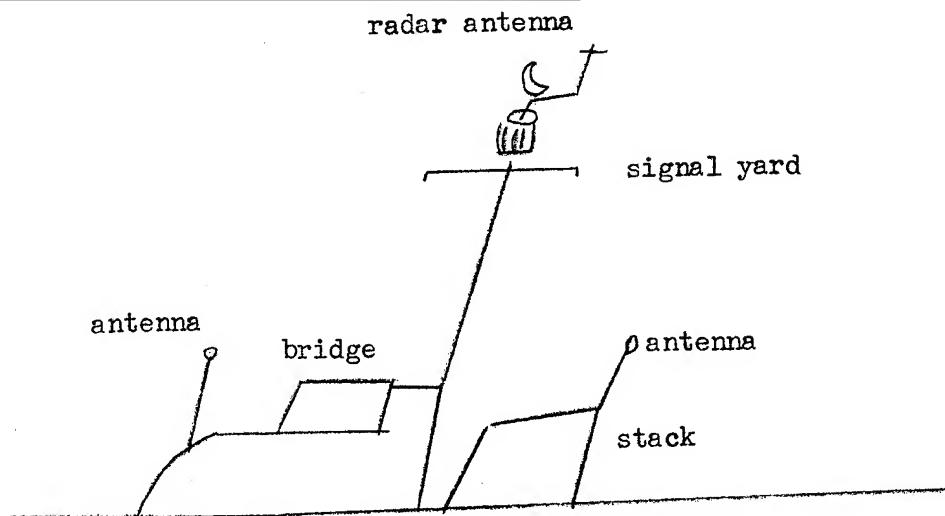
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